

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 169056
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 SS-15 PRS-01 INR-07 PM-05
EB-07 SSO-00 INRE-00 SP-02 /049 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IRN: C W NAAS:RR
APPROVED BY NEA: S SOBER
H - D GELBER (SUBS)
S/S:O-TGMARTIN
-----000788 201715Z /42

O 201640Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 169056

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IR

SUBJECT:STATUS OF PLAY ON AWACS

1. SENATORS EAGLETON AND CULVER GAVE STRONG PRESENTATION
IN OPPOSITION TO AWACS BEFORE HUMPHREY SUBCOMMITTEE
JULY 18. WE ASSUME WIRELESS FILE HAS GIVEN MAIN POINTS
OF THEIR PRESENTATION. THEY WERE FOLLOWED BY GAO WHICH
WAS OPPOSED ALSO. IN EVENT IRANIANS ASK WHY NO
ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL WAS PRESENT TO REBUT THE ABOVE
VIEWS, YOU SHOULD INFORM THEM THAT THIS SESSION WAS
DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO OPPONENTS OF SALE.

2. GAO APPEARED BEFORE SUBCOMMITTEES OF HOUSE JULY 19
WITH SAME PRESENTATION. HOWEVER, TOWARD END OF THIS
SESSION GAO SPOKESMAN STATED UNDER QUESTIONING THAT, IF
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HE WERE NOT UNDER FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESTRAINTS, HE
WOULD SELECT "MORE AWACS" BECAUSE OF ITS EFFECTIVENESS.
ALSO, WHEN ASKED ABOUT VULNERABILITY OF AWACS TO
MISSILES, HE NOTED THAT FIXED GROUND RADAR WAS ALSO
VULNERABLE. DIFFICULT TO SAY HOW HELPFUL THIS WILL BE
BECAUSE REST OF TESTIMONY WAS STRONGLY OPPOSED.

3. ADMIRAL TURNER IS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR IN RESTRICTED SESSION BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEES ON THURSDAY, JULY 21, AND THE HUMPHREY SUBCOMMITTEE ON FRIDAY, JULY 22, PRIOR TO APPEARANCES OF ADMINISTRATION WITNESSES WHO WILL BE ATHERTON, GELB, AND VON MARBOD.

4. AT PRESENT TIME, BEFORE ADMINISTRATION HAS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE ITS FULL TESTIMONY IN REBUTTAL TO OPPONENTS, THE VOTE IN THE HUMPHREY SUBCOMMITTEE AS WELL AS THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEES WOULD BE VERY CLOSE. A CONSIDERABLE BRIEFING EFFORT IS UNDERWAY WITH KEY SENATORS INCLUDING A MEETING WEDNESDAY EVENING, JULY 20, THAT SECRETARIES VANCE AND BROWN WILL HAVE WITH CULVER AND EAGLETON.

5. IF NECESSARY, YOU MAY ASSURE IRANIANS THAT ADMINISTRATION IS FULLY BEHIND THE SALE AND IS UNDERTAKING MAJOR EFFORT ON THE HILL. VANCE

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TAGS: MASS, IR
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